



San Diego City Attorney CASEY GWINN

NEWS RELEASE

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IDENTITY THIEF SENTENCED TO ONE YEAR IN JAIL

City Attorney's Office Prosecutes Scammer

San Diego, CA — Adam Benjamin Winer was ordered to serve one year in custody and pay full victim restitution as a result of an identity theft criminal case filed by the San Diego City Attorney's Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit and settled in San Diego Superior Court today. Winer has been in custody since January and did not appear in court. He was represented by his attorney.

The criminal case alleged that Winer pretended to be an editor for FHM Magazine, a men's magazine based in New York, and scammed several victims out of over \$26,000, promising them trips to Hawaii, gift certificates from upscale retail stores, and a Range Rover. Winer pleaded guilty to identity theft, false personation, and six counts of grand theft. San Diego Superior Court Commissioner Sandra L. Berry ordered Winer to serve one year in jail, cooperate with law enforcement to identify all his victims, and pay full victim restitution. In addition, Winer will serve five years probation, forfeit a computer used for one of his scams, and pay a \$100 restitution fine.

"This case serves to remind everyone that identity thieves and scammers can be very persuasive and sophisticated," Deputy City Attorney Joan McNamara said. "The citizens of San Diego need to be aware and skeptical of anyone making promises that sound too good to be true. More often than not, it's a scam."

On January 16 of this year, the City Attorney's Office issued a media advisory, asking for the public's help in apprehending Winer who was wanted on a \$100,000 warrant in this case. His last known address was in Poway, but victims had reported that he might be in Oceanside. Two days later, the Oceanside Police Department arrested Winer who was also wanted for probation violations in a previous internet fraud case prosecuted by the Consumer and Environmental Protection Unit in the San Diego City Attorney's Office.

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